The Daily Colonist.
(ESTABLISHED 1858)

SECOND NEWS SECTION — VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1959 — PAGE THIRTEEN

—(Colonist photos by Jim Ryan)

Withdrawal of Midnight Boat 'Like Losing Home' Says Crew

Captain H. W. Field of Vancouver was third officer on the first run of the Elizabeth. He'll make the last as master.

Chief Steward David Mitchell of West Vancouver, looks over menu for final run, with stewardess Mrs. Janey Wright, Victoria..

Radio operator Wallace A. Peirce of Victoria, also was on first run. In 29 years' service with this ship he's never missed a day.

Purser F. A. Campbell of Victoria, will go on retirement after 39 years' BCCS service at almost same time as Princess Elizabeth.

Quartermaster Klas G. Odgren will ring the final "stop" signal on the command of Capt. Field. He is waiting news of next ship.

Third engineer Jack Mumford of New Westminster, at telegraph where "finished with engines" ring will end midnight boat run.

Around the Island

School Plan 'Confused'

DUNCAN—The school board of district 65, Cowichan, has developed what the department of Education at Victoria has termed "the most confused piece of planning in the province."

The reference is to the board's efforts to decide whether to build a one-room school at Koksilah, a two-room school, or to plan for a one-room addition to a one-room school (as yet not constructed).

A department letter told the board that "the feasibility of building a one-room addition to an unbuilt school is questioned."

"Does the department realize that we will be sending some Koksilah pupils to the old school, some to the new school — when we build one — and some pupils will still have to be transported to Fairbridge unless we plan for an addition to the one-room already authorized?" trustees asked.

The board finally decided to call for tenders for a one-room "expandable-type" school.

* * *

DUNCAN — Tenders have been called for the construction of a new business block on Station Street, by J. H. Whittome, agents for Cowichan Estates, Ltd., owners of the present group of buildings occupying the space between the Bank of Montreal and Veteran Janitors Services.

Closing date for tenders is Feb. 27.

There will be five new stores in the new building, each with a frontage of 19 feet. It will be of concrete block construction with a lane provided for delivery of supplies to relieve present congested parking on Station Street.

NANAIMO — The department of education has balked at the cost of an addition to Harewood School and refused to approve a low bid by E. J. Hunter and Son of Victoria.

The bid of $58,000 for the proposed activity room for the school was too much for the education department.

The school board has instructed its architects to draw up new plans so that costs can be reduced sufficiently to meet the maximum of $51,000 the education department is prepared to approve.

* * *

DUNCAN — Road building program of North Cowichan municipality has already provided work for 12 men who otherwise would have been jobless, Councillor D. C. Morton, chairman of the public works committee, reported to council.

* * *

CAMPBELL RIVER — Vernon Edward Breckon pleaded guilty in police court here yesterday to assaulting George Slowden at Quathiaski Cove, Quadra Island at the latter's home, Thursday.

Evidence in court was that Slowden was "badly beaten."

Magistrate P. E. Lewis sentenced Breckon to a fine of $300 or three months' imprisonment and bound him over under a $500 bond to keep the peace for 12 months.

* * *

NANAIMO—Frank and William Ney, of Nanaimo Realty Company, announced yesterday that Malaspina Galleries of Gabriola Island had been bought by Gabriola Sands Resort Ltd. The galleries will be turned over to the government for a provincial park and the adjacent land sub-divided.

DUNCAN — MacMillan and Bloedel Ltd. submitted a bid of $3,591, lowest of three, for the supply of lumber for the rebuilding of Menzies Creek Bridge, in North Cowichan Municipality. Other materials will bring the cost up to $4,850, just $150 less than the $5,000 which had been appropriated for the replacement job.

Councillor D. C. Morton, chairman of the public works committee, said the job would be done during the Easter school recess.

* * *

NANAIMO — Rotary Club has answered a request from the Upper Island Music Festival committee by approving a $50 bursary for the festival this year.

Closing date for entries—over 550 are expected—is Feb. 28. The festival will be conducted in St. Paul's and St. Andrew's Church halls, Nanaimo senior high school and Quennel auditoriums, April 16 to 21.

* * *

DUNCAN — A special presentation ceremony was conducted at the Indian Agency here this week when James and George Evans were given certificates of merit by the Cowichan Indian Band for their work in assisting with restoration of the Old Stone Church.

Restoration of the famous old Cowichan Church, which dominates the Comiaken Hill in the midst of the Comiaken Village, was a centennial year project of the Indian Band. At the same time, Chief Elwood Modeste received a bronze centennial plaque in recognition of his work during the centennial celebrations.

PORT ALBERNI — Fines and costs totalling $206.50 were meted out to a young man who pleaded guilty in Alberni court Friday to two traffic charges.

Gerald Fred, Alberni, was accused of impaired driving and of operating a vehicle while disqualified by suspension of his driver's licence. If he fails to raise funds to pay his fines, he will be jailed for two consecutive 30-day terms.

The accused was found early Friday slumped over the wheel of a car which had stopped on the travelled portion of Highway 4 above Niagara Creek. Motor, automatic gear shift and lights were still operating when RCMP checked the vehicle, but the driver's foot was still on the brake.

He told Magistrate W. E. MacLeod that his licence had been suspended since 1954.

* * *

CHEMAINUS—L. A. Huxtable, commercial manager of the B.C. Telephone Co., told Chamber of Commerce here that Chemainus would be entirely automatic in 1960 with a new building, and the most up-to-date equipment on the continent.

An expenditure of $500,000 for cost of conversion, and an additional $200,000 new feeder system is involved in the changeover.

* * *

DUNCAN—Two members of the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire, England, will conduct a mission in Duncan from March 8 to March 15. Addresses will be given in St. John's Hall, Anglican, each day at 8.30 p.m.

DAN DOYLE

Rough but It's Cheap

Tired Building Home for 13

By TED SHACKLEFORD

The Blanshard cabins, an old, dilapidated two-storey frame building within sight of the Empress Hotel, is home to 13 of Greater Victoria's pensioners.

The building contains 24 pokey little rooms about 10 feet square, but 11 of them are padlocked. As they became vacant they were locked to prevent anyone "squatting" in them.

When all the rooms are padlocked the building will likely be torn down.

Rooms in the building are the worst I have seen . . . but they are a godsend to the pensioners at $10 a month. It means that they can at least spend a few more dollars for food.

The Blanshard cabins have been home to 86-year-old Dan Doyle for about 46 years, off and on. He first rented one of the rooms in 1912, before the Power Commission bought the property. After about 15 years he left Victoria and returned to the cabins about 25 years ago.

LEFT WITH $65

Dan gets both the federal pension of $55 a month and the British Columbia government's bonus of $20 a month. When he's paid his rent he is left with $65 clear.

Dan's room is cleaner and more tidy than others in the building.

The main item of furniture, and the most prominent, is a small wood stove standing in the centre of the room with the flue running across to the rear wall. It keeps the room warm and dry and cooks Dan's meals for him.

CHOPPING BLOCK

Opposite the door is a double bed. In the opposite corner to the door Dan has a small chopping block, a hatchet, paper box, tinder box and a coal box.

Under the window Dan has a small table. In the corner near the table he has nailed four wooden boxes on the wall to increase his shelf space. There he keeps his groceries and dishes.

There are two chairs in the room—an old arm chair with a piece of a tarpaulin covering the back and sacking for a cushion, and a kitchen chair.

In a glass-fronted cabinet by the door Dan keeps his reading matter — mainly neatly stacked paperback Western novels, but including several technical handbooks.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Dan has no real troubles with finances—"We can live on it OK," he says. "It just about lasts out.

"With rent like they have outside—$28 to $30 a month—it would be tough."

Wood and coal for heating costs Dan about $5 every two months. He only eats two meals a day but could eat three if he wanted them.

LISTENS TO RADIO

Dan can't read too much—weak eyes—but he fills in time by walking about town sometimes, and chopping wood. And then again, he listens to the radio—he has two as a friend gave him one.

Dan's rent includes electric light. He has a bare 100-watt bulb hanging from the ceiling. A pad of paper is used to jam the door shut.

There is no hot water in the rooms, apart from what the tenants heat on their stoves, and there is only one cold water sink outside to serve the six rooms on Dan's side of the cabins.

There are two toilets at the back of the building.

Dan's room is far from luxurious, but it is cheap. And cheap housing is what most pensioners look for.

* * *

Yesterday I used a trick told to me by a number of readers, and stayed in bed late. I ate a fairly heavy breakfast of cornflakes with reconstituted milk, four slices of toast with margarine and marmalade and three cups of coffee, and did without lunch.

For dinner I had one and a half bowls of soup, finishing that off, just over half a pound of cod with fried potatoes and half a small can of mixed vegetables and coffee.

* * *

Whistle to Mark End of an Era

At midnight Tuesday three sharp blasts of a ship's whistle in the Inner Harbor will mark the end of an era.

The scene will be repeated at Vancouver as the Princess Elizabeth and Princess Joan simultaneously set out on the final night boat run.

To hundreds of thousands of people over the past 29 years, depending on age and circumstance, the midnight boats have been an institution, an adventure, a rock-a-bye night's sleep, a setting for romance or an excuse for a party.

They will miss it.

But what of the men and women who run the ships? The Colonist sent a reporter-photographer team aboard the Elizabeth yesterday to find out.

"It's like losing my second home," said radio operator Walace A. Peirce, 615 Cook. He's been 25 years on the same ship out of a total of 45 years with Canadian Pacific Steamships. Before coming to the company's coastal fleet, he served aboard the famed "white empress" ships.

"The old night boat will be missed," he says. "It's certainly been like a home to me. You know, that in the old days I used to get blisters on my ears from wearing headphones." He waved a hand at the modern equipment around him. "But that's all gone now . . ."

Mr. Peirce was aboard the Elizabeth on the first night run 29 years ago this spring. He's proud of the fact that he never missed a day's work in that time, and he'll be there on Wednesday.

"This has always been a very happy ship," said Stewardess Mrs. Janey Wright, 826 Esquimalt. "For the past 16 year's I've practically lived aboard and it's been wonderful. It'll be a sad day when she's taken off for good."

Other crew members had kind words for the Elizabeth. Most are waiting to learn whether they are to be laid off work or transferred to other ships in the fleet. Down in the engine room, in the midst of heat and the smell of oil, an engineer called out: "So you've come to see the dying swan . . ."

Just before sailing time, Captain H. W. Field stepped briskly onto the bridge. He was third officer aboard the Elizabeth on her first run to Victoria. Hand on the whistle cord, the captain mulled over his feelings on withdrawal of the ships from service after 29 years.

"It's a sign of the times, I guess," he said. The whistle gave a sharp blast and right on 3.30 the screws of the Elizabeth began to churn up the quiet waters of the Inner Harbor.

Advice to Young Couples — *From One Who Knows*

'Don't Be in a Hurry'

* * *

Buy When You're Able Or Jail May Follow

* * *

"Don't be in too big a hurry to own things. Take your time, and get them only as you're able to buy them."

This is the advice offered young couples — especially very young couples — by a young husband who knows the price of too much haste.

He is Marvin Leroy Raymus, who came from the Calgary district, and who yesterday was sentenced in city police court to 18 months definite and nine months indeterminate in the Young Offenders' Unit at Oakalla.

The sentence actually was a multiple one—the same on each of eight charges of false pretences in which goods were obtained by worthless cheques. All were made concurrent by Magistrate William Ostler.

Three of the charges were in Victoria: one involving $214.05; one $400; one $130; three in North Vancouver: one for $210; one $514; one under $50; one in Saanich for about $22, and one in West Vancouver for $480.

In all cases, Raymus was charged under the name of John W. Willison. This, he told the Colonist yesterday, was one of his aliases.

In the three Victoria cases he was charged jointly with his wife, Frances Jean Raymus. She was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment.

Willing to help others avoid the same pitfall, Raymus told something of his story to the Colonist.

Both Raymus and his wife, but especially Raymus, came from homes where they had not enjoyed happy childhoods. In his case, he only went to Grade 9 in school.

The two were married 18 months ago, and tried to make a go of it together.

"Lack of an education forced me into laboring work, and my back would give out. Between times, bills would mount up, and first thing I knew I'd have to quit because of my back, or my pay would be garnisheed and the boss would fire me."

The rest of his story is one of vain attempts by the young couple—he is still only 19, his wife 18—to put down roots.

All the things they acquired —TV, record players, and the rest—they hoped to keep somehow and pay for.

For about a year they roamed.

Victoria, he said, was the end of the road. The offences were committed here Jan. 10; those in North and West Vancouver on Jan. 24.

That, they decided, was the end. Returning to Victoria, they destroyed the cheque books and means of identification they'd been using, and "just waited."

A raid by Saanich and Victoria detectives ended their waiting, and goods worth about $2,000 have been recovered.

Magistrate Ostler told the young couple, as they stood together, holding hands, in the prisoner's box yesterday:

"Yours is quite an amazing story."

The magistrate noted that they were married at a very early age, drawn together, no doubt, by need for companionship and their unhappy childhood years.

"You each needed someone to belong to," said the magistrate. "This would explain to some extent your conduct.

"Punishment is certainly called for, but in this case perhaps the need for rehabilitation comes ahead of punishment."

Magistrate Ostler, saying "I think and hope there is a genuine affection between you," urged both to take advantage of the guidance and vocational training that would be available during their imprisonment.

Anti-Labor Speakers Hit

'Tongues Race, Brain Neutral'

By ALEC MERRIMAN

Any attempts, sincere or otherwise, to cause splits among management and labor groups "comes close to treason," Donald Smith, Social Credit MLA for Victoria, said in the legislature yesterday.

"I want to dissociate myself from those 'who in attacking either management or labor, speak with their tongue in high gear and their brain in neutral," he said.

He was obviously referring to anti-labor remarks made in the House by both Public Works Minister W. N. Chant and Highways Minister P. A. Gaglardi.

Mr. Smith made a speech in which he staunchly defended labor and which was warmly applauded by CCF members. At times it looked as if Mr. Smith might be planning to cross the floor of the House, but later he said "I represent the people" and in his speech he pointed out the majority of trade unionists must be Social Crediters.

"If unions in B.C. are in fact bootlegging in place of bargaining . . . if unions in B.C. are racketeering in place of resolving their problems . . . then these attacks are not on the unions, but on the minister of labor and his administrators, not excluding the attorney-general's department," Mr. Smith argued.

"The minister has only to say the word and a particular union is non-existent by decertifying it," he pointed out.

"If racketeering and bootlegging is going on, which I do not believe is the case, the minister of labor is at fault as well as his administrators, and I say this . . . we have at the present time the best minister of labor and the best administrators B.C. has ever had."

"I would suggest that all of us in this legislature would be doing our duty if, instead of individually continually sniping at industrialists or recklessly smearing labor, we came down out of the clouds and spent our time in statesmanlike recognition that both are here to stay," he said.

"We need both and that which is good for labor and management is good for this province. As one prospers so does the other. A consumer without purchasing power makes a mighty poor customer and an industry which must close its plants makes a mighty poor employer."